

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Prior to this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 17, 18, 56, 57, 60, and 62 were pending and under examination, with claims 1, 3, 4, 17, 18, 57, 60, and 62 being allowable. By the present amendment, claims 1, 3, 57, 60, and 62 have been amended. Claim 56 has been canceled and re-introduced in amended form as new claim 64. No new matter has been added.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for telephonically discussing the pending claims and outstanding bases of objection and rejection with Applicant's representative on May 8, 2008. In view of this discussion, Applicant believes that these bases of objection and rejection are resolved by this amendment.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 17, 18, 56, 57, 60, and 62 stand objected to, on the basis that the dash "-" before the "m" or "n" values should be deleted. Claims 1, 3, 57, 60, and 62 have been amended to remove the dash and, thus, overcome this basis of objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 56 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that claim 56 is improper, because it does not refer to a preceding claim and does not refer to other claims in the alternative. Without acquiescence to this basis of rejection, claim 56 has been canceled and re-introduced in an amended form as new claim 64, which refers only to preceding claims in the alternative. In view of this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this basis of rejection.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 10/015,956
Reply to Final Office Action dated March 25, 2008

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. However, should any issues remain, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,
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